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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 20 July 2023 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 123**  **FG-MV/CB** | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union  - ITU-T Sector Members  - ITU-T Associates  - ITU Academia | |
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| **E-mail:** | [tsbfgmv@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgmv@itu.int) | | **Copy to:**  - The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. | |
| **Subject:** | **Special Session of ITU Focus Group on metaverse and 3rd ITU Forum on “Cities and the metaverse: shaping a citiverse for all” (Arusha, Tanzania, 12-13 September 2023)** | | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the **Special Session of ITU Focus Group on metaverse** taking place on 12 September 2023and **the 3rd ITU Forum on “Cities and the metaverse: shaping a citiverse for all”** taking place on 13 September 2023, at Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) headquarters building in Arusha, Tanzania, at the kind invitation of Tanzania. The Special Session and Forum will be collocated with:

* The *ITU-T SG20 Newcomers’ session* taking place on 12 September 2023 from 0900 to 1030 hours, Arusha Time, in Arusha, Tanzania. Kindly register [via the online registration form on the [study group homepage](https://itu.int/go/tsg20)](https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Registration.aspx?Event=C-00011810).
* The *Joint Coordination Activity on Internet of Things and Smart Cities and Communities* ([JCA-IoT and SC&C](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/iot/Pages/default.aspx)) meeting taking place on 12 September 2023 from 1100 to 1300 hours, Arusha Time, in Arusha, Tanzania. Please note that registration for the JCA-IoT and SC&C meeting is mandatory (via the online registration form available on the [study group homepage](https://itu.int/go/tsg20)).
* The *meeting of ITU-T Study Group 20 “Internet of things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)”* taking place from 13 to 22 September 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania. Please find more information on the [study group homepage](https://itu.int/go/tsg20).

2 **Special Session of ITU Focus Group on metaverse**

A Special Session of ITU Focus Group on metaverse (FG-MV) will take place on 12 September 2023 from 1430 - 1630 hours, Arusha time, in Arusha, Tanzania. The Special Session will allow participants to learn more about this important initiative as well as contribute their views on the metaverse. During this session participants can expect to learn about the work of the Focus Group, its Management Team, and Working Groups. Participation in the Focus Group on metaverse is open to all experts from government, industry, academia, and civil society.

3 **3rd ITU Forum on “Cities and the metaverse: shaping a citiverse for all”**

The 3rd ITU Forum on “Cities and the metaverse: shaping a citiverse for all” will take place on 13 September 2023 from 0930 – 1230 hours, Arusha time, in Arusha, Tanzania. The Forum will bring metaverse experts from around the world to discuss the role of the metaverse in cities and identify areas of further collaboration. Cities play an increasingly important role not only in accelerating digital transformation, but also in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum will provide a platform for all stakeholders to assemble to discuss important metaverse related challenges and opportunities facing cities today.

4 Participation in the Special Session and Forum is free of charge and open to individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines.

5 To enable ITU to make the necessary arrangements, participants are invited to register online via the [main landing page](https://www.itu.int/cities/meetings/ituevents-in-tanzania/) as soon as possible. Places are limited and registration will be handled on a first‑come, first-served basis. Registration is required for remote participation as well as on-site participation. Please note that pre-registration of participants for the events is carried out exclusively online.

6 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa to enter and spend time in Tanzania. If required, visas must be requested before the date of arrival from the embassy or consulate representing Tanzania in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. Deadlines vary, so it is suggested to check directly with the appropriate representation and apply early.

Additional details and documentation needed for visa processing, is available on the [practical information](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2022-2024/20/Documents/practical-information/practical-information-FG-MV-September2023-Tanzania.docx) document. This document is also available on the [main landing page](https://www.itu.int/cities/meetings/ituevents-in-tanzania/).

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| Yours faithfully,  Seizo Onoe  Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau |